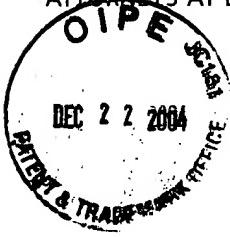




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December 22, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/717,115; Filed: November 22, 2000
For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**
Inventors: OKADA *et al.*
Our Ref: 0666.023000O/TGD/ALF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Petition for Extension of Time (PTO/SB/22);
2. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) for \$2,160.00 to cover the 5 month extension of time fee;
3. Reply to Requirement for Election of Species; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
December 22, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency,
or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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ALF/bls
Enclosures

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